

The Usefulness of Hawks.

Some weeks ago there appeared in The Commoner an interesting bulletin regarding the value of birds as insect destroyers. An Ohio reader of The Commoner complained that hawks preyed upon birds and should be killed. In the course of his letter he says:

"I write this letter to you in hopes your paper with its large circulation over the whole republic may be able to open the eyes of the public to the real cause of the fast decrease of our feathered friends. As I was born and raised near a large city I know something about the destruction of birds, both in the suburbs of the city and in the rural districts. I think I can truly say that for every bird killed by one man one thousand are killed by other enemies, the hawk being the greatest enemy. One hawk will catch from five to twenty birds in one day, and there are not twenty song birds killed in a year by man, in a township. Every township has from 20 to 100 hawks, large and small. You may call it 20, and ten birds a day apiece makes 200 birds killed in one day or 73,000 in each township in a year. Twenty-five townships to a county and 88 counties in the state of Ohio, would make a total sum of 151,800,000, the number of birds killed in one year for a single state. The only wonder is that there is a bird left; and they do get so scarce that the hawks have to visit the poultry yards. The farmers notice that some seasons the hawks hardly bother the poultry at all, while at other seasons the loss of poultry is something amazing.

"Now if Professor Bruner wants to do something practical towards saving from destruction all of the birds, he wants to use influence to have the legislatures of states pass laws to place bounties on the killing of hawks. We had a law of that kind in Ohio a few years ago. A bounty of fifty cents each was paid for hawks' heads, and the sportsmen started out with their long range rifles and the hawks were thinned out fast, and the birds began to make a marked increase; but another political party got control of the legislature and the law was repealed in the interests of economy.

"The hawks are getting plentiful and the birds decrease just in proportion

FAMILY FOOD.

Crisp, Toothsome and Requires No Cooking.

A little boy down in N. C. asked his mother to write an account of how Grape-Nuts Food had helped their family.

She says Grape-Nuts was first brought to her attention on a visit to Charlotte, where she visited the Mayor of that city who was using the Food by the advice of his physician. She says, "They derive so much good from it that they never pass a day without using it. While I was there I used the Food regularly. I gained about 15 pounds and felt so well that when I returned home I began using Grape-Nuts in the family regularly.

My little 18 months old baby shortly after being weaned was very ill with dyspepsia and teething. She was sick nine weeks and we tried everything. She became so emaciated that it was painful to handle her and we thought we were going to lose her. One day a happy thought urged me to try Grape-Nuts soaked in a little warm milk.

Well it worked like a charm and she began taking it regularly and improvement set in at once. She is now getting well and round and fat as fast as possible and on Grape-Nuts.

Sometime ago a number of the family were stricken with LaGrippe at the same time, and during the worst stages we could not relish anything in the shape of food but Grape-Nuts and oranges, everything else nauseated us.

We all appreciate what your famous food has done for our family."

as the hawks increase. I am somewhat of a hunter myself and shoot a hawk whenever I get a chance, and have shot quite a number on your western prairies as well as in my native state. I have seen a single hawk catch a flock of twelve quail in one day. Now if every friend of the bird would shoot a hawk whenever he got a chance, bounty or no bounty, there would be a noticed increase in the small birds.

"The fact remains that the hawks are on the increase and the birds on the decrease, but by giving a suitable bounty the boys will get out their rifles and will keep pegging away until the last hawk is dead, and then you will see a marked increase of birds and small game."

This complaint was submitted to Professor Bruner and called forth the following reply:

"Since the statements made in the foregoing letter differ considerably from recent published accounts dealing with the food-habits of hawks, it has been deemed advisable to at least call attention to what has been done on the subject. Accordingly a brief statement is handed you herewith, which, if thought advisable, might be published along with that letter.

"Mr. C. Hart Merriam, when handing the manuscripts for a bulletin on the Hawks and Owls of the United States to the secretary of agriculture, accompanied the same with a brief summary of the food-habits of these birds as follows:

"The statements herein contained respecting the food of the various hawks and owls are based on the critical examination, by scientific experts, of the actual contents of about 2,700 stomachs of these birds, and consequently may be fairly regarded as a truthful showing of the normal food of each species. The result proves that a class of birds commonly looked upon as enemies to the farmer, and indiscriminately destroyed whenever occasion offers, really rank among his best friends, and with few exceptions should be preserved, and encouraged to take up their abode in the neighborhood of his home. Only six of the 73 species and sub-species of hawks and owls of the United States are injurious. Of these, three are so extremely rare they need hardly be considered, and another (the fish hawk) is only indirectly injurious, leaving but two (the sharp-shinned and Cooper's hawks) that really need to be taken into account as enemies to agriculture. Omitting the six species that feed largely on poultry and game, 2,212 stomachs were examined, of which 56 per cent contained mice and other small mammals, 27 per cent insects, and only 3½ per cent poultry or game birds. In view of these facts the folly of offering bounties for the destruction of hawks and owls, as has been done by several states, becomes apparent, and the importance of an accurate knowledge of the economic status of our common birds and mammals is overwhelmingly demonstrated."

"From the data given above we may readily infer that careful research has shown us that these birds are not so bad as we imagined them to be, but that they are even capable of rendering the tiller of the soil valuable service as police officers in dealing with vermin like mice, ground-squirrels, gophers, prairie dogs, etc.

Hawks, like men and boys, sometimes do, no doubt, develop abnormal tastes as well as habits. Occasionally one may develop a fondness for the inhabitants of our poultry yards or even for the harmless and beautiful song birds of our groves, meadows and fields. But this fondness for bird flesh in a few individuals does not indicate that the entire group is made up of the same class of individuals as regards their traits or desires. In the case of the man or boy chastisement is, or should be, administered and the re-

mainder of mankind given a wholesome lesson. Why not pursue a like policy when dealing with our feathered friends?

"If hawks and owls, which are generally credited with being the Ishmaelites among birds, may at times be considered our friends and worthy of protection from the thoughtless gunner, what shall we say about the song and other birds?"

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No better cattle and sheep country in America. Cheap lands, pure, running water, and flowing wells, fine climate, no malaria, plenty of hay. Write for information to

J. C. MORROW,
O'Neill, Neb.

A Debt Statement.

An interesting statement has been made regarding the national debts of the world's great nations. In 1793 it was estimated that the total debt of the nations was \$2,500,000,000. It is now estimated at \$31,000,000,000. The increase in debt, population and coin during the past century may be stated about as follows:

	Per cent.
Increase in population.....	150
Increase in gold and silver.....	300
Increase in debt.....	1,000

It will thus be seen that this vast world's debt has largely exceeded the increase in coin, and must be based largely on credit. What has caused this frightful increase of debt? Possibly one-third resulted from building railroads and improving rivers and harbors. The rest may be charged to wars—many of them unholy and little short of barbarous! This is the burden that agriculture has carried—for, in the end, the great expense of war and destruction must come out of the soil.—Rural New Yorker.

Government Changed.

The constitution, to defend which nearly a million men have poured out their blood on a thousand battle fields, is not for all. Some millions who have lived all their lives under the folds of the star-spangled banner have been told by the supreme court that the constitution does not protect them. They no longer have unalienable rights. Congress can take every one of them away. Five men who live at Washington, surrounded by an atmosphere of imperialism, militarism and plutocracy, have changed the whole form of our government. All men—not even all white men born in the United States—are no longer equal before the law. The law—that is, the constitution—provides that some of them shall not have soldiers quartered upon them, shall not be subject to unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be held to answer for crime except upon the presentment of a grand jury, shall have the benefit of counsel, shall be confronted with the witnesses against him, shall be tried in the district where the crime was alleged to be committed by a jury of his peers, shall not be subject to excessive bail nor twice be put in jeopardy for the same offense. Now some sixteen millions of people are living within the jurisdiction of the United States who have been deprived of all these rights. Now Christian men can be transported ten thousand miles away from their homes, tried in secret, denied counsel and be deprived of life, liberty and property without any process of law. This is the ending of the great party founded by Lincoln which drew its inspiration from the declaration that "all men were created equal" and in whose ranks so many of us were glad to serve for many years.—Nebraska Independent.

Mr. Fleming's Opinion.

Congressman Fleming of Georgia thus comments upon the one majority decision of the supreme court:

"In three great crises which have occurred since the war where the supreme court was directly concerned, the republican party has invariably carried its point by one majority and has never wasted any of its resources in getting a larger majority than one.

"First, there was the electoral commission, under which Tilden was defrauded of his election by the people. That decision was in favor of the republican party by one majority—all it needed.

"Next there was the income tax decision, in which the republican party found it necessary to limit the power of congress under the constitution, and it succeeds in reversing the law that had stood for a hundred years, and did it by one majority—all it needed.

"Then again there was the Porto Rican tax cases, in which the republican party found it necessary to enlarge the powers of congress under the constitution, and it succeeded in reversing the accepted principles of law that had stood for a hundred years and did it by one majority of the court—all it needed.

"Every good citizen is impelled to give the court the fullest credit for sincerity and honesty, and these three instances of one majority will no doubt be accepted by the public as mere coincidences. But I venture the assertion that if the republican party continues to get many more such critical decisions by one majority, the average American mind will come to the conclusion that it is not altogether due to luck."

Der Boeren.

Fight on, brave souls with Botha and De Wet!

Ye noble men and boys, whom to oppose
Requires ten times your force in English foes.

God crown your arms with freedom's victory yet,
For hallowed is your strife, ye patriots bold;

And may your every aim be true to thrust
The tyrant's legions into Afric's dust—

Fools that they are, mere purchased things and sold.
That heart is pulseless to our nation's creed

Who lauds the coining of men's blood to gain
Gold for a clique and subjects for a reign,

Or for assaulted freedom does not bleed.
Rise, freemen, all! ere King and Would-Be King

And Greed the knell of all republics ring.
—Franklyn Quinby, in The Public.

One of the first things to attract the attention of Baby Clarence was grandma's hat-rack, made of a pair of deer horns. One afternoon when he was three years old, his papa took him to Capt. G.'s park. When relating the incidents of the trip to his mamma on their return, he exclaimed: "And, oh, mamma! I saw a deer, and he had a hat-rack on his head!"—Current Literature.

Astonishing Binder Twine Offer.

If you need binder twine for this season's crop, and want the highest grade binder twine made, either Standard, Sisal or Manila, and you want to receive an astonishingly low price offer, an extraordinary inducement for you to send to Chicago for your twine, cut this notice out and mail to SEARS ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago, Ill., and you will receive by return mail, post-paid, samples of the highest grade Standard, Sisal and Manila, together with a most extraordinary offer, including a special price that will mean a big saving to you.